

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE PHILOSOPHY

Meeting online via Zoom connection, Wednesday, December 27, 2017.

1. The President, Bonnie Kent, called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.
2. **Nominating Committee report.** Bonnie Kent announced that she will resign her position as president at the conclusion of the first year of her term. Tamar Rudavsky, current vice-president, will commence her two-year term in January, 2018. Therese Cory was nominated to become the VP/President-elect beginning in January, 2018.

Luis López-Farjeat was nominated to fill the remaining year on Therese Cory's term on the Executive Committee. Colleen McCluskey, Sayeh Meisami, and Tom Osborne were nominated to begin first 3-year terms on the executive committee in place of Gloria Frost and Tobias Hoffmann. (Osborne was unable to accept the nomination; John Inglis was subsequently nominated, and Inglis, McCluskey, and Meisami were elected by the general membership via an electronic ballot.)

3. **Membership Committee report.** There were no meetings of the Membership Committee in 2017. The Secretary-Treasurer reported that there were eight new members for 2017, five regular members and three student members. Regular members are subject to approval by the Executive Committee, which approved all of the 2017 new members unanimously.
4. **Secretary-Treasurer report.** The Society's current assets (as of 12/31/17) stand at \$35,718.49, up 1.47% from 2016. Membership revenue, up 25% from 2016, accounted for 87% of the Society's annual revenue. Although membership revenue was up compared to 2016, the number of total annual members actually decreased 5% from last year. In general, however, there were no significant changes in our long-term patterns for expenses or revenue.
5. **Financial Committee report.** The Executive Committee unanimously approved the reinvestment of its current TIAA-CREF Money Market Fund in higher performing funds identified by the Finance Committee.
6. **Requests to collaborate with and co-sponsor conferences.** The Society received two requests for collaboration.
 - a) The Executive Committee unanimously approved a request from Enrique Alarcón, Philosophy Department, University of Navarra to support a conference, co-sponsored by University of Navarra and the Fundación Tomás de Aquino, on "[Intelligence and Will in Thomas Aquinas.](#)" The conference will be held in Pamplona, April 26-27 2018. The SMRP will agree to disseminate information about the conference in exchange for 50% discount on conference fees for its members. (Other current "cooperating entities" include: Société Internationale pour l'Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale; Thomas Aquinas International Society; Sociedad de Filosofía Medieval; and the Instituto Santo Tomás).
 - b) The Society also received and approved a request for monetary support for a conference on St. Anselm that is being co-organized by Sally Vaughn (History, University of Houston) and Tom Osborne (Philosophy, University of St. Thomas in Houston). This support will be offered under

the proviso that it not be regarded as a precedent regarding responses to future requests of this sort from other entities. The vote tally was five yes votes and two abstentions.

- 7. Program Committee report.** The SMRP sponsored paper sessions at the three divisional APA conferences, the American Catholic Philosophical Association, the Renaissance Society of America, and the International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo). In all, sponsored sessions comprised 30 paper presentations and two roundtable discussions.
- 8. Founder's Award report.** Tobias Hoffmann reported that there were 14 submissions for the 2017 cycle. The recipient was Stephen Ogden for his paper on "The Unity Argument in Averroes." The Executive Committee unanimously approved two recommendations: (a) that the terms of submission be revised to include a recommendation of essay length of approx. 9,000 words; (b) that the deadline be moved to May 1.
- 9. Report of the Publications Committee:** Jason Aleksander reported that there were no Publications Committee actions in 2017.
- 10. Report of ad-hoc Communications Committee.** Eileen Sweeney reported that the new SMRP website has been up and running since the summer. Updates to the new website are ongoing, including the addition of a donation button more prominently featured on its home/announcements page.
- 11. Discussion of SMRP Constitution.** The Executive Committee recommended that the ad-hoc Constitution Committee continue work on drafting a revised constitution to be distributed to the general membership for public comment, then revised in light of feedback, and then put before the general membership according to the current terms of the constitution's provisions for amendment. The committee unanimously approved a committee chaired by Ed Halper and including Jason Aleksander, Jon McGinnis, and Eileen Sweeney as members.
- 12. SMRP membership benefits.** Bonnie Kent proposed the distribution of a poll of members to ascertain the potential value of services such as providing a syllabus repository and referral system for members seeking input about works in progress. The motion to develop and disseminate a poll was tabled pending research concerning the feasibility of an ExCom member being able to create and distribute such poll.
- 13. Budget for 2018.** The Executive Committee unanimously approved a budget of \$3,095.
- 14. New Business.** There was no new business to report.
- 15. Adjournment.** A motion to adjourn was accepted unanimously at 5:05 PM EST / 2:05 PM PST.

Respectfully submitted

Jason Aleksander

Secretary-Treasurer